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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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September 18, 2008

TO: Health Deputies

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS FOR THE COURTYARDS OF
LONG BEACH HOUSING PROJECT UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES ACT HOUSING PROGRAM**

This is to inform you that the Department of Mental Health (DMH), as required under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), has opened a public review and comment period for the Courtyards of Long Beach housing project proposed to be funded through the MHSA Housing Program. The public review and comment period will run from September 15, 2008 through October 15, 2008. The document under review is posted on the DMH website (<http://dmh.lacounty.info/mhsa/>).

On June 10, 2008 the Board approved the DMH MHSA Housing Program Plan and authorized the Department to participate in the statewide MHSA Housing Program jointly administered by the California Department of Mental Health (CDMH) and the California Housing and Finance Agency (CalHFA) for the development of permanent supportive housing for individuals with mental illness and their families. CDMH subsequently allocated Los Angeles County \$115,571,200 and transferred the funds to CalHFA to administer the funds and underwrite the loans. DMH has a non-competitive process for soliciting projects for consideration.

The Courtyards of Long Beach is the fourth MHSA Housing Program project to be posted for public comment in Los Angeles. The Project Sponsor is Clifford Beers Housing Inc. The project is located in Service Area 8 within Supervisorial District 4 and will target adults and older adults. Clifford Beers Housing, Inc. is requesting a MHSA funded capital development loan of \$2,194,403 and \$2,300,000 in operating subsidies for this project, with 23 units (of a total of 46 units) funded by MHSA and dedicated to homeless individuals with psychiatric disabilities.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Following the public comment period, DMH will summarize the comments, analyze any substantive recommendations and revise the project, as appropriate. DMH will then send the MHSA Housing Program application to CDMH and CalHFA for review, approval and underwriting.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Dr. Maria Funk, District Chief, Countywide Housing, Employment and Education Resource Development at (213) 251-6582.

MJS:MF:gnr

c: Robin Kay, Ph.D.
Kathleen Daly, M.D.
Maria Funk, Ph.D.
Sheila Shima

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